

NEWCASTLE EMLYN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1969



To the Chairman and Members of the Newcastle Emlyn Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

In presenting my Annual Report for the year ended 31st December, 1969, it affords me much pleasure to report that the health of the population remained at a satisfactory level.

I wish to gratefully acknowledge the work carried out by my staff and to thank the Members of the Council for the wholehearted manner in which they have supported me. I also wish to thank my colleagues and their staff for their continued support and help.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

ELFYN T. JONES
Medical Officer of Health

OFFICIALS OF THE COUNCIL

Clerk and Chief Financial Officer – FRANCIS T. GEORGE, F.C.A., F.R.Econ.S.

Medical Officer of Health – Dr. ELFYN T. JONES, B.Sc., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.,
D.P.H. Official Address and telephone number: Public Health Department,
3 Spilman Street, Carmarthen. Carmarthen 5131.

Surveyor and Public Health Inspector – W. J. GRIFFITHS.

Rating Officer – Miss S. A. M. DAVIES.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

The Newcastle Emlyn Urban District Authority covers an area of 208 acres. The rateable value of the area is £33,491, the sum represented by a penny rate £129 and the number of inhabited houses 313. The estimated mid-year home population by the Registrar-General is 670.

Newcastle Emlyn is a market town situated in the Teifi Valley in north-west Carmarthenshire, and serves the needs of a scattered agricultural community living in the adjacent countryside including a part of South Cardiganshire and North Pembrokeshire. A milk products factory, glove factory, egg-grading station, omnibus depot, together with various shops and businesses provide employment for a number of the population. A branch railway line for goods traffic runs to the town. A secondary modern school and one primary school serves the town and the surrounding area. Excellent facilities are available for the marketing of animals and marts are held regularly. The town and the surrounding district continues to be a popular tourist and fisherman's resort, and during the holiday season there is a large influx of visitors to the area. A fair proportion of the residents have come to live here in retirement.

VITAL STATISTICS

BIRTHS – There were 10 live births (4 males; 6 Females) during the year, and this gives a crude birth-rate of 14.9 per 1,000 of the population.

STILLBIRTHS – There were no still-births.

INFANT DEATHS – There were no infant deaths.

DEATHS (ALL AGES) – Deaths during the year totalled 12 (6 males; 6 Females), giving a crude death rate of 17.9 per 1,000 population.

The causes of death were:—

Cause of Death	Sex	Total All Ages	Age in Years		
			55-64	65-74	75—
Malignant Neoplasm, Intestine ..	F	1	1	—	—
Other Malignant Neoplasms ..	F	1	—	—	1
Other Diseases of Nervous System ..	M	1	1	—	—
Ischaemic Heart Disease	M	2	1	1	—
	F	2	1	1	—
Other Forms of Heart Disease ..	F	1	—	—	1
Cerebrovascular Disease	M	1	—	—	1
	F	1	—	—	1
Peptic Ulcer	M	1	—	1	—
Suicide and Self-Inflicted Injuries ..	M	1	1	—	—
TOTAL ALL CAUSES	M	6	3	2	1
	F	6	2	1	3

PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

Hospital, Laboratory and Ambulance facilities: The district is served mainly by the West Wales General Hospital, Carmarthen and Cardigan Hospital with provision for cases of infectious diseases at the West Wales Isolation Hospital, Upper Tumble, Nr. Llanelli. Cases of mental disease receive treatment at St. David's Hospital, Carmarthen. Clinics for the treatment of Venereal Diseases are held at the West Wales General Hospital, Glangwili, Carmarthen. Free treatment may be obtained at these Clinics under conditions of secrecy and confidence. The clinics are held as follows:—

Males and Females – First and third Friday in each month 2 p.m. – 6 p.m.

Bacteriological and Pathological investigations are carried out at the Public Health Laboratory and the Pathological Department at the West Wales General Hospital, Glangwili, Carmarthen, and the resources of these laboratories are always available to medical practitioners.

Ambulance facilities including facilities for the transport of sitting car cases, are under the control of the County Council.

Home Nursing Services:

This service is undertaken by one district nurse in the direct employ of the County Council.

Child Health Clinic:

One child health clinic is held.

Ante-Natal Clinics:

No Ante- Natal Clinic has been established in the area.

The Care of Unmarried Mothers and their Children:

Arrangements are made for unmarried mothers to be admitted to one of the following hostels: – Northlands, Cardiff; Cwmdonkin Shelter, Swansea; The Llandaff Diocesan Moral Welfare Committee Hostel, Penarth or the St. Martin's Home, Hereford. These arrangements are made by the County Council and also the St. Davids Diocesan Moral Welfare Committee.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

No cases of Infectious Diseases were notified during the year.

The number of cases on the Tuberculosis Register at the end of the year was 4 (3 males; 1 Female).

VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION

Statistics relating to vaccination and immunisation during the year for the County as a whole, given by the County Medical Officer of Health, are as follows:–

(i) Smallpox

Age at date of Vaccination					Number Vaccinated	Number Revaccinated
Under 1 year	..	..	..	..	110	—
1 year	..	..	..	..	995	—
2 – 4 years	..	..	..	..	204	7
5 – 15 years	..	..	..	..	43	96

(ii) Vaccination of persons under 16

	PRIMARY						Boosters
	Born 1969	Born 1968	Born 1967	Born 1966	Born '62-65	Others —16	
Triple Antigen	910	673	155	48	90	21	824
Diphtheria/Tetanus ..	1	3	6	3	43	15	434
Tetanus	—	2	2	9	48	267	135
Polio (Sabin)	828	631	204	73	156	45	454
Measles	4	64	45	48	13	15	—

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS 1948 and 1951

Section 47 of the 1948 Act – Removal to suitable premises of persons in need of care and attention.

It is pleasing to report that no case called for action to be taken by the Council during the year.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water Supply

During the year the new water scheme continued to function satisfactorily and although water wastage has been reduced to a minimum the public's co-operation in preventing wastage is still essential with regard to household leakages.

Sewerage and Drainage

Considerable progress in house connections to the main sewer resulted during the year. Some properties however still remain to be done but undoubtedly these will be connected up as a result of official requests by the Council's Officers.

Scavenging and Rodent Control

During the year now under review the once weekly collection of refuse in the town operated satisfactorily. This service was undertaken by the Newcastle Emlyn Rural District Council. Facilities for the disposal of refuse was also provided by that Authority.

Under the supervision of the Public Health Inspector cases of rat infestation when they occurred were dealt with by the Council's workmen.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT AND REGULATIONS

The Food and Drugs Authority for the area is the County Council. Mr. E. G. Nicholls, Chief Inspector of the County Council, reports as follows on work done during the year in the area of the Newcastle Emlyn Urban District under the Food and Drugs Act, 1955 and the various Regulations and Orders made thereunder:—

Total number of samples of foodstuffs submitted to the Public Analyst for compositional quality and purity	38
Informal samples of Milk tested for compositional quality by the Food and Drugs Inspectors	9
Informal samples of Alcoholic Spirits tested by the Food and Drugs Inspectors	5
Milk samples submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, Glangwili, for bacteriological examination, etc.	25
Total ..	77

Milk samples submitted to the Public Analyst

Number of samples submitted	22
Certified to be genuine	14
Slightly deficient in Non-fatty-solids due to natural causes	7
Contained a small amount of Extraneous Water	1

The supplier of the milk sample certified to contain a small amount (2%) of extraneous water was warned.

Informal samples of Milk

Nine informal samples of milk supplied to schools were tested by the Food and Drugs Inspectors. All the samples were found to be genuine in butter-fat and non-fatty-solids content.

Miscellaneous articles of Food

Sixteen samples of foodstuffs, other than milk, were procured at shops in the area and were submitted to the Public Analyst. The samples comprised the following:—Seven of Butter; Three of Almond Marzipan; Two each of Ground Almonds and Malt Vinegar; One each of Breakfast Cereal and Pork Sausages. All these samples were certified to be genuine.

Alcoholic Spirits

Five informal samples of Whisky were purchased at licensed premises and were tested by the Food and Drugs Inspectors. These five samples were found to be genuine.

The Milk (Special Designation) Regulations, 1963 and 1965

Twenty-five samples of milk were taken from licensed milk-dealers and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, Glangwili, for examination for bacteriological quality, etc. The results of the tests carried out on these samples were as follows:—

Pasteurised Milk

Satisfied both the Phosphatase test for adequacy of heat-treatment and the Methylene Blue test for bacteriological quality	..	..	..	14
Failed the Methylene Blue Test but satisfied the Phosphatase test	..	..	..	1
				<hr/> 15

Untreated Milk

Satisfied the Methylene Blue Test	..	..	..	..	6
Failed the Methylene Blue Test	..	..	..	..	4
					<hr/> 10

The ten samples of Untreated Milk were also examined for the presence of *Brucella abortus*. One sample gave a positive result under the *Brucella* Ring Test but *Brucella abortus* was not isolated in this sample under the follow up Culture test.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

Record of visits for 1969:—

General Sanitation

Nature of Visit or Inspection	No. of Visits.
Water Supplies	.. .. . 120
Drainage	.. .. . 110
Bakehouses	.. .. . 6
Public Conveniences	.. .. . 30
Refuse Collection	.. .. . 15
Rats and Mice	.. .. . 35
Miscellaneous Sanitary Visits	.. .. . 57

Housing

Under Housing and Public Health Acts

Number of houses inspected	.. .. . 35
Visits paid to above houses	.. .. . 60
Miscellaneous housing visits	.. .. . 6

Meat and Food Inspection

Inspection of Meat and Meat Shops

Number of slaughterhouses in area	.. .. . 1
Number of visits to the above slaughterhouse	.. .. . 210
Number of visits to Shops and Stalls	.. .. . 12
Number of visits to Butchers	.. .. . 20

Ice-Cream

Number of Ice-Cream Manufacturers in area	.. .. . 1
Number of Ice-Cream Retailers in area	.. .. . 6

The Food and Drugs Act, 1955

The Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960:

Whenever necessary the Public Health Inspector visited various food premises in the town so as to maintain the highest possible standard of hygiene.

	<i>No. fitted to comply with Reg. 16</i>	<i>No. to which Reg. 19 applies</i>	<i>No. fitted to comply with Reg. 19</i>
Grocers' Shops (7)	7	7	7
Greengrocers' Shops (1)	—	1	—
Bakers' Shops (1)	1	1	1
Butchers' Shops (3)	3	3	3
Cafes (3)	3	3	3

The Liquid Egg (Pasteurisation) Regs. 1963

No. of egg pasteurisation plants in the district—Nil

Foodstuffs condemned by the Public Health Inspector at Shops etc. (excluding the Slaughterhouse):—

Meat Products—30 tins.

Condemned foodstuffs are disposed of by burial on the Refuse Disposal Site.

Poultry Processing Premises

No. of poultry processing premises in the district—Nil

Housing

Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	20
Number of Inspections made for the purpose	25

Unfit Houses Closed

Under Sect. 16 (4), 17 (1) and 35 (1) Housing Act, 1957 and Sect. 26 Housing Act, 1961	Nil
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Unfit Houses made Fit:

	<i>By Owner</i>
After informal action by local Authority	Nil

Housing (Financial Provision) Act, 1958, as amended:

Housing (House Purchase and Housing Act) 1959:

Number of Applications for Discretionary Grants approved during the year ..	3
Number of Applications for Standard Grants approved during the year ..	2

PRIVATE SLAUGHTERHOUSES

Meat Inspection Regulations, 1963

There is one private slaughterhouse operating in the area.

In accordance with the requirements of the Meat Inspection Regulations, 1963, all the animals slaughtered there have been inspected by the Public Health Inspector and the carcasses passed fit for human consumption have been marked with a distinguishing stamp.

During the year the following animals were examined:—

Number of Cattle (including cows)	..	..	645
Number of Calves	..	..	14
Number of Sheep and Lambs	..	..	1,629
Number of Pigs	..	..	618

Details of Meat Condemned at the Slaughterhouse:—

790 lbs. Ox Liver—Distomatosis.

30 lbs. Sheep Liver—Distomatosis.

Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963

Very few inspections under the above Act were undertaken by the Public Health Inspector during the year – time available did not permit of as much attention being given to this work as was perhaps desirable.

Administration of the Factories Act, 1961: Duties of the Sanitary Authority under the Factories Acts have been carried out by the Public Health Inspector as part of his routine work, and a close liaison has been maintained with the District Inspector of Factories.

PART 1 OF THE ACT

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by the Public Health Inspector).

	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority	—	—	—	—
Factories not included above in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	8	8	—	—
Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ..	3	6	—	—
Total ..	11	14	—	—

2. Cases in which defects were found:—Nil.

PART VIII OF THE ACT

OUTWORK

(Sections 133 and 134)

The return required under Part VIII of the Act is “Nil.”

